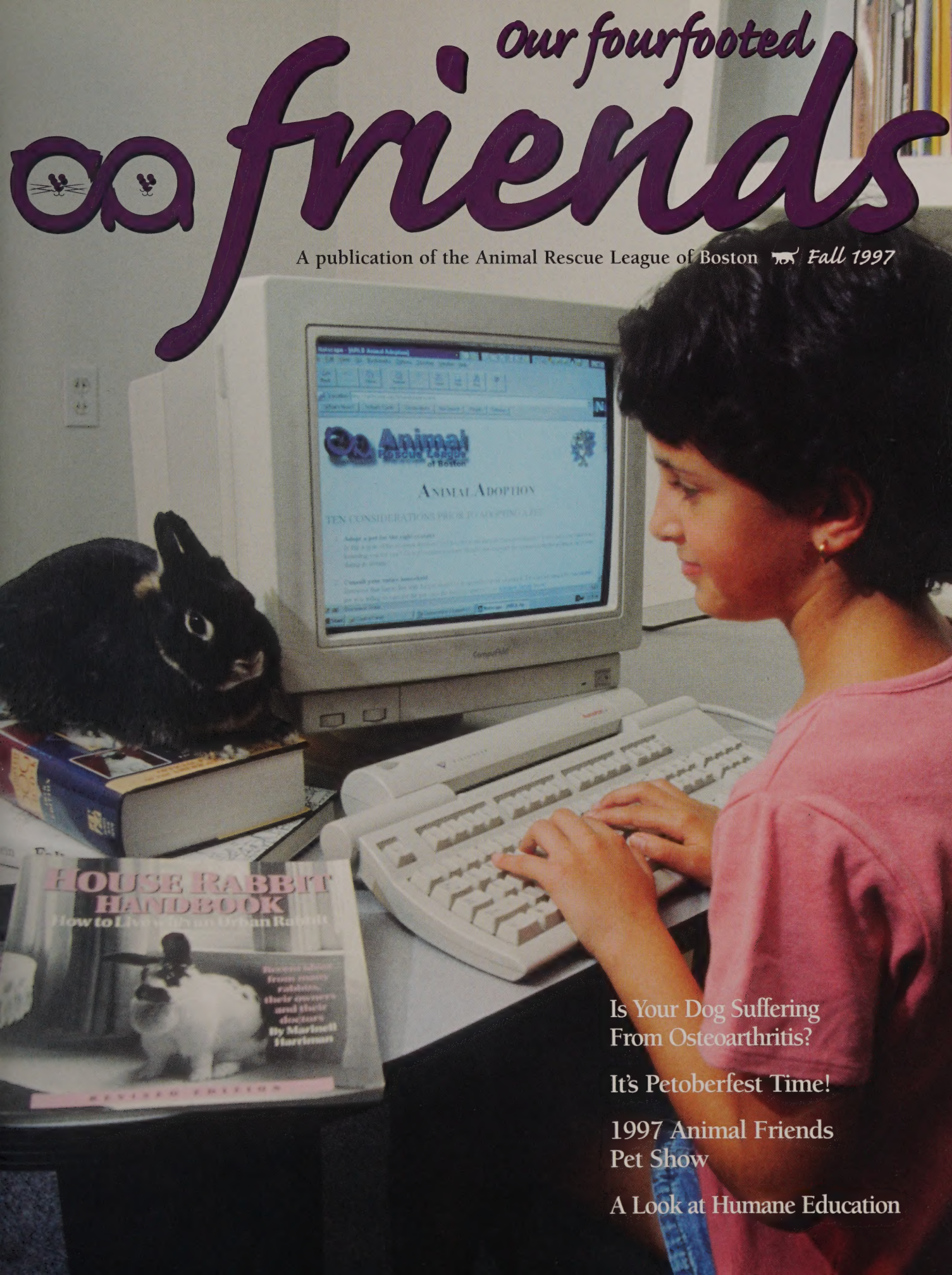
Our fourfooted friends

A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston Fall 1997



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A Look at Humane Education

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On the Cover

Naomi Rattner and "Gretel" check out the League's website. Cover photo by Bob Howard.

Our fourfooted friends

Volume 94, No. 3 *Fall 1997*

Publisher of *our fourfooted friends*

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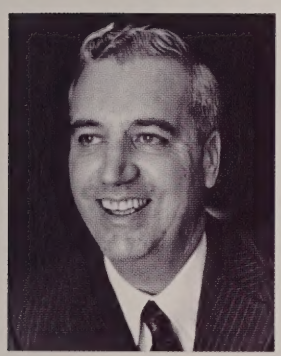
A Message from the President

Safety First



Arthur G. Slade
President

In commenting on the recent tragic carriage horse accident in Boston's downtown area, I cannot help but express the view that there should be a moratorium on the operation of these carriages in this area of Boston, due to the heavy concentration of motor vehicle traffic on these streets.

Making this area especially dangerous at this time are the hazardous conditions created by extensive highway construction related to the Big Dig project: extreme congestion, detours, partially blocked streets, and the very poor quality of the surfaces of streets currently in use. The horse, the driver, and the passengers in the carriage are in real danger, to say nothing of the pedestrians in the area.

Heavy motor vehicle traffic and horse-drawn carriages do not mix well in these circumstances and we have been fearful that an even more tragic accident than the one on August 8 might occur.

I urge a prompt evaluation of the need for a moratorium by public safety officials and the Boston City Council who created the present carriage horse regulations. Recent observations of the carriage horse routes bear out our belief that the current road conditions and construction hazards make for unusually dangerous operating conditions. Our observations also disclose a lack of safety equipment and a careless disregard by some drivers for the safe operation of the carriages.

Combining all of these concerns, I feel there is an urgent need to halt such an unnecessary risk to the horses and the public at large. In making this observation and recommendation, I must remark that we have had the same response from responsible members and friends of the League who have a genuine concern for the safety of everyone involved. It might be helpful if Boston citizens expressed this feeling to the Boston City Council in the form of a letter or a phone call.

Rescue News

Team effort! All is well for "Sophie" and "Gwen" thanks to the compassion of camp counselors (l to r) Rebecca Hutchison, Shea Moniz, Jillian Sarringer and Jill Neilson.

It's a calf!

Thursday, August 5 was a very important day in the lives of some counselors (not to mention bovine friends) at the League's Animal Friends Summer Camp in North Falmouth.

Farm Life Counselor Jillian Sarringer and Horse Care Counselor Shea Moniz were performing their evening farm duties when "Sophie" the 13-year-old Angus cow went into labor. "Sophie" has been a favorite animal friend among campers and counselors for many seasons at the camp and her impending delivery had been expected and eagerly anticipated.

When "Sophie" went into labor, Shea and Jillian sent for reinforcements. Assistant Director and League Humane Educator Rebecca Hutchinson and Senior Counselor Jill Neilson were summoned and together the four counselors watched and waited. Knowing that cows normally do not require assistance to give birth, the quartet was there for moral support to welcome the new arrival.

Trouble occurred when the counselors noticed that the calf was coming into the world back feet first, and it was soon evident that the birth would be breech. Rebecca and Jillian, assisted by Jill and Shea, gently rotated the calf and helped "Sophie" ease a new life into the family at Animal Friends Summer Camp. "Lady Gwenivere" was born at 6:40 p.m. to the joy and relief of all present.

We are pleased to report that "Sophie" and "Gwen" are both healthy, thanks to the quick actions of caring counselors who may indeed have saved two lives one summer evening. At the end of the camp season mother and daughter were returned to their home at Bristol Agricultural High School where they are cared for by the students.

Rescue Is Our Middle Name

Striving to be prepared to help animals in any situation, the Animal Rescue League of Boston sent six staff members to be trained and certified as Animal Rescue Technicians by the American Humane Association. The course stressed rescuing animals without injuring oneself in dangerous situations. The three-day course combined technical rescue and emergency animal relief. The first day was spent in the classroom followed by a day each in swift water training and repelling. The group came away a little sore but well prepared to assist an animal in need wherever it may be.

A Veterinary
UPDATE
Fall 3

by Bosmat Gal, D.V. M.

Is Your Dog Suffering From Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis, also known as Degenerative Joint Disease, is a debilitating syndrome affecting as much as 20 percent of the canine population over one year of age*. Whether Osteoarthritis is primary or secondary to trauma or disease, the joint cartilage is eroded and there is abnormal bone growth. The joint disease can be made worse by inflammatory changes occurring inside the joint tissue and lubricating fluid. The end result of the erosion and destruction of the cartilage can cause loss of joint function through inflammation of variable degree, fibrosis, new bone formation and limb deformity.

The symptoms are usually pain and disability associated with the affected joint, but sometimes may have an impact on the patient as a whole. The most common complaint by an owner of an older dog is that the dog is having difficulty rising and walking first thing in the morning. After taking a detailed history from the owner, the physical examination is the next important step. Performing a thorough physical exam sometimes allows the veterinarian to rule out other possible causes for the symptoms. Examination of the musculoskeletal system of the dog includes observation (standing and walking), palpation (symmetry, size, shape, heat, sensitivity) and manipulation (range of motion, hyperextension, hyperflexion). Most of the time other diagnostic procedures are also necessary, such as survey radiographs.

As Osteoarthritis is a progressive, and often irreversible disease process in older dogs, the primary goals of its management are to relieve discomfort, prevent or slow the degenerative changes in affected joints and restore as much joint function as possible. Often this can be achieved with simple management regimens including weight loss, moderate exercise (walking, swimming) and appropriate rest between exercise periods. Medical management over the past few decades has been the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) such as aspirin. The most common side effect associated with NSAID administration to dogs is gastrointestinal toxicity. This may range from vomiting and diarrhea, including blood, to a silent ulcer that could result in perforation. Carprofen, a recently approved NSAID for use in the treatment of Osteoarthritis in dogs, is available by prescription through your veterinarian. It has been demonstrated to improve limb function. Minimal side effects have been noted with its use and there appears to be limited gastrointestinal toxicity.

In the past few years, a new concept in the management of Osteoarthritis has emerged in the form of nutritional supplements. These oral products are thought to have positive effects on the joint cartilage. The theory is that they help support reparative processes in the joint by providing the building blocks for cartilage repair. If these products are given as instructed, results are expected to show within three to four weeks. It is also likely that one product will work well in one dog, but not in another; some dogs will not respond at all. There is definite potential to relieve your dog's pain and discomfort due to Osteoarthritis. Please consult your veterinarian for more information.

* (survey of 200 veterinarians, 1996, conducted by Pfizer Animal Health).

Do you have a question regarding general pet health? Please send it to Veterinary Update c/o the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

News from

It's Petoberfest Time!

Do you have plans on Saturday, October 4 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.? Why not bring the family to the League's annual fair at the Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham? Petoberfest '97 promises to be a day filled with fun for everyone!

Animals will welcome you in our adoption center and paddocks, musicians will serenade you throughout the day and humane educators will enlighten you on aspects of caring for your pets. Marla Issac from Biological Graphic Arts will introduce you to reptiles and Joe Borowick will present the fine art of blacksmithing.

Crafters will entice you with their wares and Henry Berman and Sons will persuade you to take home some treasures at our professional auction. The aroma of apple cider will lead you directly to our baked goods table.

Children will be invited to participate in a pet show at 11 a.m. and will also enjoy painting collars for their pets at our arts and crafts table. We ask pet show participants to restrict entrants to dogs and cats who must be in carriers or on leashes. After the show don't forget to have your pet's photo taken with Santa! The "Moonwalk" will also be sure to be a favorite among our younger friends.

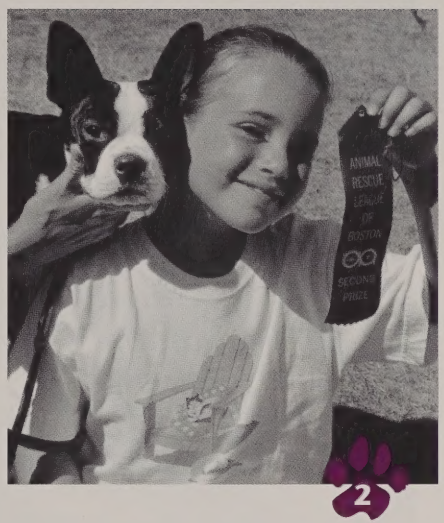
Adults will be invited to try their skill at a "Putting for Pets" putting tournament where the potential prize is $10,000.

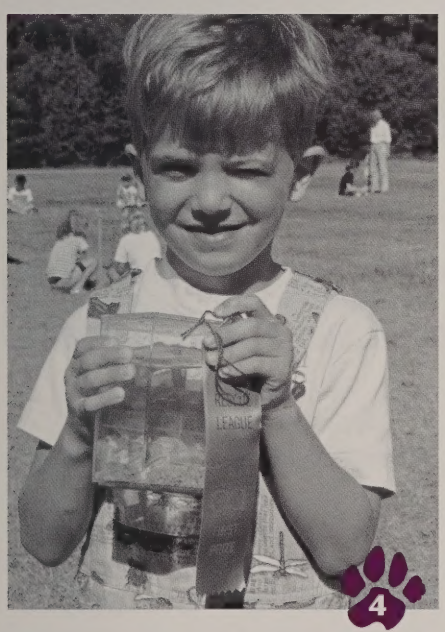
Space is still available if you would like to rent a table to sell crafts or flea market items. If you would like to donate items for a League flea market table, please bring them to the Pine Ridge Animal Center, 55 Anna's Place (at 238 Pine Street), Dedham. See you at Petoberfest '97!

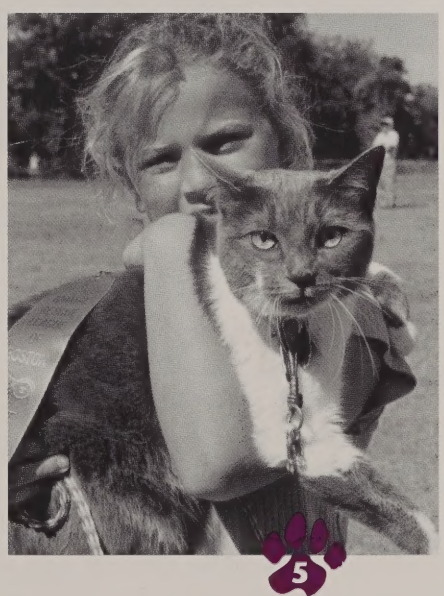
Regional Training Workshops at the League

Continuing in its capacity as a Regional Training Center for the American Humane Association (AHA), the Animal Rescue League of Boston hosted two more seminars this summer. AHA's Mike Kaufmann led a group of 19 in a Humane Education Workshop on June 18. The goals were trying to change the image of animals, change negative traditions, foster responsible pet ownership, and teach compassion.

Shelter Planning, Design & Construction was a popular topic with 37 participants on July 19. Nicolas Gilman of the AHA explained that shelters should be public-friendly as well as animal-friendly. He said shelter designs should give animals protection from the chaos of the public, and should give potential adopters an opportunity to spend private time with the animal they are considering bringing into their family. More seminars are planned for next year.







1997 Animal Friends Pet Show

On a beautiful day late in July, a large group of well-loved and cared for pets brought their owners to Nye Field to strut. The 1997 Animal Friends Pet Show began with the traditional musical parade around the field with family and onlookers cheering the entrants. How proud they all looked!

After the parade, animal friends and their owners were led into the rings to be judged. Some categories included: "Miscellaneous Pets with Two Feet or Less," "Dog Obedience," "Best Tailwagger" and "Best in Show." Rather than judging on strict physical appearance, entrants were asked questions emphasizing pet care and responsibility. Everyone performed beautifully, and we would like to introduce some of the ribbon recipients. Congratulations to all!

1. *Best in Show recipients Randi White and "Mandy," her 11 year-old Springer Spaniel, pose proudly after receiving their award. Pet Show judges joining the celebration include: (l to r) Jillian Sarringer, Rebecca Hutchinson, Sonia DiTommaso, Alan Cunningham and League President Arthur Slade.*

2. *Cheek to cheek! Boston Terrier "Velvet" cuddles up with her owner Abby Fellman as they show off their second place ribbon in the "Puppies Under Six Months" category.*

3. *This is one happy dog! "Figgy" the Yorkshire Terrier showed how happy he is to have a home with Tyler DeWaltoff by taking first place as the "Best Tailwagger."*

4. *This gentleman can tell you anything you'd ever want to know about the Siamese Fighting Fish. Sam Shapiro and "Snow" smile for the camera after receiving the first place ribbon for "Miscellaneous Pets Under Two Feet."*

5. *Rosemary Scavotto has her hands full with her cat "Mittens." This is one proud feline! "Mittens" received the first place ribbon in the "Cats Over Six Months" category.*

"Beatrice" quenches her thirst with some help from camper Ashley Hines.

Reflections of a Camp Counselor

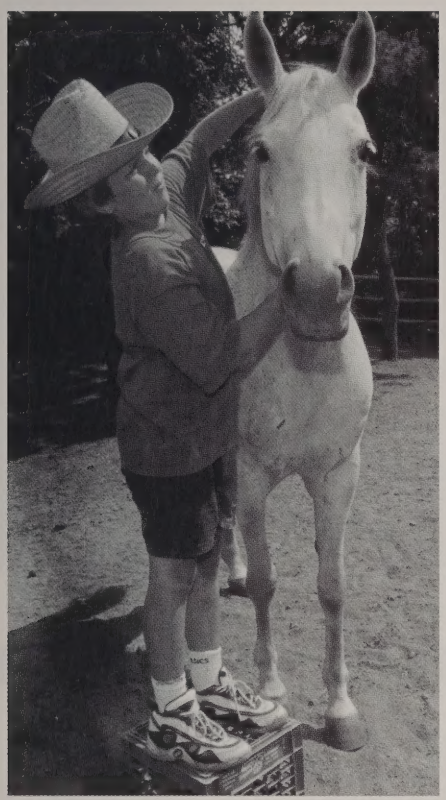
by Jill Neilson

Camper Samara Lampert ponders "Which came first?" as she holds "Rosalita."

Now I know why teachers love teaching. It's so rewarding! The feeling you get when you know you have reached out to a child is incredible. Or if you help a child make some new friends. The best thing to observe is when the children help and encourage each other without being asked. This summer at the League's Animal Friends Summer Camp made me realize that children are great and has even put a thought into my mind about teaching as a profession.

The second week I was at camp, a class of sixth graders from the Mary E. Curley School in Jamaica Plain came to camp for a week. I was really nervous and didn't know what to expect or how the children would behave. It was also my first week teaching Group Adventures (a team building class centered around trust) so I did not know how I would do overall. The first day was a little rough, but after that, it went much smoother. Throughout the week some of the children would tell me about their town and family and I would tell them about college. Most of the children told me that they plan to go to college—this was encouraging as I didn't expect sixth graders to be thinking so far ahead!

By the end of the week, we were all sad to see them leave. Together we learned about animals and the environment. We also played basketball and kickball, and became a team at the annual Curley Olympics. It was a good time for all. I may never know if the children will remember anything I taught them about trust, leadership or teamwork, but I can hope and treasure memories of that week.



Brian McCarter gets up close and personal with "Shadow" during Horse Care class.

Curley Week was just the beginning. I still had seven more weeks of camp with children and I was very excited! The first session was for three weeks with children from fourth to eighth grades. The second session hosted campers from first to third grade levels. I knew I was in for a challenge, but I eagerly anticipated the formal start to the camp season.

Even though I had already taught for a week before the first session started, I was still nervous. There were three things I wasn't used to: song time, hobby time and teaching two classes a day instead of just one. I did not know any of the camp songs at first and was apprehensive about standing up in front of the campers as a song leader. After a few days, I realized that the songs were fun and easy to learn. I soon learned to add the hand motions that went with the songs. My favorite song was "Three Rounds" because all of the campers and counselors got involved and it became a favorite song to perform at Family Day.

At hobby time I taught Team Sports, which consisted of playing kickball, badminton and soccer. We all learned about the importance of teamwork.

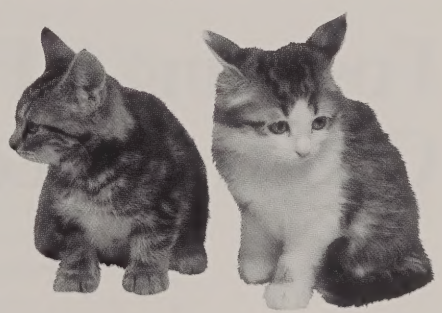
Animal Friends Summer Camp is unlike any other camp that I have worked at or attended. In addition to teaching children about the importance of respecting animals, the environment and ultimately each other, this camp had a special event every day. Special events focused on people from the community who came to camp to enlighten the children on many varied topics. Campers learned about bats, reptiles, drug prevention, magic, scuba diving, search and rescue dogs, and much more! All in all, it was a great learning experience for campers and counselors alike—I had an excellent summer!

Editor's note: Jill Neilson is the 1997 recipient of the Florence Buttrick award. Established in memory of the wife of former League President Carlton Buttrick, the award is given at the close of each season to that counselor who displays the utmost understanding of humane attitudes, cooperation, leadership and team spirit. Jill is from Salisbury, CT. She is a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Management.

Special Students Provide Special Care to Our Animal Friends

During the month of July, students and teachers from the Bennett School in Brighton and the Carter School in Boston generously donated their time and assistance to the League shelters in Boston and Dedham.

At the Boston shelter, Carter School students worked persistently to assemble and prepare litter boxes for all the cats and kittens in the shelter. This was a



great help and time-saver for the staff! The students also provided many of the animals in the adoption center with some extra love and attention each week. In Dedham, students from the Bennett School took excellent care of the animals by socializing, grooming and exercising the animals. They also had the rare opportunity to meet and feed "Gunther" the pig, who is currently residing in Dedham.

Many thanks to all of the students and teachers from the Carter School and the Bennett School for all of your help and hard work! We are looking forward to seeing you again in September!

Humane Educator Rebecca Hutchinson introduces "Margarita" to youngsters in a pet care class.

Fostering a Future for Animals and their Owners: A Look at Humane Education

by Laurel Wellman

"Nine out of ten skunks prefer Yoplait."

Laughter bursts into the air. From my seat, a miniature blue hard-backed chair, I see the smiling faces of first-graders from Miriam F. McCarthy Elementary School in Framingham, Mass. The little boys and girls sit on the floor and in chairs in a large open classroom filled with brightly colored decorations, including a sea of exotic fish hand-drawn by a group of tiny Picassos. The children's attention is focused on Alan Cunningham, Senior Training and Public Education Instructor for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He is explaining how the League's ambulance drivers are often called upon to rescue skunks who have stuck their heads in a yogurt cup for a taste and then can't get their heads back out.

Alan goes on to explain more about what the Animal Rescue League does and then his co-presenter, Rebecca Hutchinson, Humane Educator, steps up to introduce the video they have brought for the children to watch. Before "Paws, Claws, Feathers and Fins," begins, Becky tells the children about the advantages of owning a pet. "If you tell them a secret, they will keep it in their heads forever," confides Becky. "That's the best thing about having a pet for a friend."

Earlier, while Becky was presenting to another group of first-graders, she told the same yogurt cup story and was met by a resounding, "eeewww." Then a freckled face girl, tangled up in her chair, raised her hand and asked, "How do you rescue dinosaurs?" Becky explained that dinosaurs no longer exist, but if they did, she was sure the Animal Rescue League of Boston would find a way to rescue them. After she showed the video, Becky went over its contents to make sure the children remembered and understood the important points. She asked the children, "What does a pet need?"

The children, sometimes with a little coaching, proudly answered that pets need food, water, shelter, exercise, and a clean living area. When her presentation was over, Becky gathered her supplies as a

brown-haired little boy in a striped rugby shirt walked up to her. He said shyly, "I liked the movie."

Alan and Rebecca spend their days going to schools and hosting groups at the Animal Rescue League of Boston headquarters hoping to get through to children, just as it seems Becky did with the little boy in Framingham. "The intention is to teach what animals need and how to care for them, as well as trying to foster a humane mindset in children as far as their feeling toward animals," says Alan.

Humane education is an integral part of the work of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. As Director of Public Relations and Education, Sonia DiTommaso has her hands full. So many issues, so little time. Reaching children is one of the main focuses of the League's education platform. One objective is to nurture a child's natural interest in animals. There is another impetus. Sonia explains, "There is also a problem with child abuse connected to animal abuse. It is a cyclical problem." Children, she says, "usually start out with animals because they can control them. The League believes education is necessary in breaking the cycle of violence."

Violence isn't the only threat to animals. There seems to be a lot of ignorance out there, or perhaps ignorance is not the word. "I don't like the word ignorant. I'd rather say uninformed or they didn't think or they don't know enough about it," says Alan. Whatever you call it, the fact is, humane education may be the only solution to a very big problem. Alan feels strongly that his job is to, "get the message out in a nonjudgmental, nonconfrontational way."

Many animals must be rescued from situations that could have been avoided had the public been better educated. At the Animal Rescue League of Boston it becomes every staff member's job to educate the public about the proper treatment of animals. Examples of unknowingness that leads to neglect are many. These include, among other things, lack of quality time, not feeding an animal properly, not knowing that they have to clean up after them and exposing animals to the elements. Pets are often left outside 24 hours a day. Without proper shelter, they can get hypothermia, frostbite or heat prostration depending on the weather. In the best interest of animals, the League's ambulance drivers, shelter workers and law enforcement personnel are therefore essential, though unofficial, members of the humane education department. Preventing the mistreatment of animals is always preferable to rescuing them from it.

A huge topic among animal welfare organizations that does not translate into neglect, but eventually creates suffering for many animals, is the issue of pet overpopulation. The Animal Rescue League of Boston works hard to influence young minds and promote the idea of spaying and neutering. Plans are in the works to develop more integrated learning exercises such as incorporating breeding statistics into children's math lessons. The question would read something like this: If two cats had seven kittens and then those kittens all had kittens and so on. How many cats would there be in seven years? The answer: One cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years. This may seem hard to believe but cats can begin to reproduce as young as approximately six months of age and they can have two or even three litters a year with as many as seven kittens in each litter. In the case of dogs, one dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in seven years. If the kids do their math right, the other lesson is inescapable.

Although having a pet is wonderful, not everyone should bring an animal into their home. Sonia states, "We also educate people on pet care and adopting a pet. A lot of people don't realize the responsibility that comes with adopting a pet." The adoption center at the Boston facility of the Animal Rescue League of Boston is lined with small cages and has pens in the middle for large dogs. Walking through the U-shaped viewing area, one sees a card on each cage describing the pet and listing the reason it is up for adoption. On a typical day the listed reasons include: "too many pets", "allergies," "no longer matches furniture," "landlord won't allow," "can't afford," "no time to care for pet," "no room," "moving" and "stray." That is why humane educators, who have the animals' interests in mind as well, want to make sure that people think ahead and adopt pets for the right reasons (see sidebar).

While shelters respond to the plight of animals today, humane education is about planning for tomorrow. "If we get to the generation that's young now, in twenty years maybe we'll be a better world for animals. That's the plan or the drive here," says Alan. The largest impact of their work will probably not be felt for years to come, yet their efforts can also have an effect today. "Kids go home and say,

'Hey Dad, a guy was in school today and he says Fifi needs water more than food and you don't fill Fifi's water dish every time it is empty.' They'll more likely listen to their kid. Even if they say it doesn't need to be done, if the kid believes it, the kid may fill it up every time its empty. The kids can take the education home and pass it on to brothers, sisters, parents…" says Alan.

"I believe at a young age they do have compassion for animals even if they are influenced at home with their parents not being so responsible," says Becky. "You can see in their faces that they are really excited about learning about animals and what to do. They get very excited. Sometimes they've never seen the type of animal that you bring in, like a guinea pig or a rabbit," Becky adds.

Becky feels she can make a difference. "For the younger kids it's more of a hands-on thing. You want to introduce them to animals, but you don't want to make them nervous. If kids are nervous, if kids have a bad experience one time with an animal, that sets up something for them for the future," she says. "We always say if you don't want to touch an animal, its feelings are not going to be hurt, and our feelings are not going to be hurt because that makes the kids feel better if they don't really want to touch the animal. We aren't going to force it on them. If you force it on them, then the next time they see an animal they'll freak out because of it."

Young children respond more readily to such messages than older children and adults. Sonia says, "An obstacle that we have is dealing with people who think living creatures are "only animals." She notes, "When you have a family where they've been raised to think [a pet] is just an animal and you can't get out of that mentality, you're getting into a circle that is difficult to break. We need to try to break those barriers."

The struggle to educate the public is ongoing. Part of the job involves continuous introspection. The question is always there: 'How can we do better?'

Becky says, "We're looking to see what really affects kids if our programs are effective, which I think they have been. But we also need to make it more hands-on because I think a lot of kids learn that way." She prefers activities that get the class involved, "have them standing up acting like animals and that sort of thing."

Alan questions whether the current methods are sufficient. "I think multiple visits to the same group of kids might be more valuable and in the big picture have more impact on how animals are treated."

"More programs on a small group of kids would have a stronger and bigger impact on that group. It would be less people, but if I can really influence a hundred kids by going ten weeks in a row and these hundred kids now are drilled and they are pumped on it and they know all the stuff, they are going to be good people to animals. I think that may be better than talking to 500 kids once and they forget. How many of that 500 will carry that kind of compassion for animals with them that I could bring if we do multiple programs? I think program series are something that's valuable. But the one-shot deal is more common across the country," says Alan.

"That's the complaint and the dream of every animal humane educator in the country. People realize that they get this one-shot deal so we spend a lot of time saying: 'What do we need to do in a program, do we do cartwheels or what?'" He adds, "We need to do something dramatic. You can't just go in and say 'watch this film,' and stand on your head. You have to do something that's memorable if you are only in there once. At the conferences each year everyone wants to know: What kind of program do you do? Does it work? Tell me something!"

Unfortunately the questions remain, but fortunately, so do the people who ask them. And someday they will find the answers, for, as Alan puts it, "Our goal is to put ourselves out of business."

Are you ready for a pet?

The Animal Rescue League of Boston has adapted an American Humane Association presentation where they ask ten questions to help people decide if they are ready for a pet. Are you?

Why do you want to adopt a pet? This question is asked to make sure getting a pet isn't a spur of the moment decision. People often decide to get a pet because they suddenly see an animal that tugs at their heartstrings or because their children are hounding them for one.

Is this a decision the entire household has made? Everyone that has to live with the pet should be in agreement about adopting it. If parents are adopting it for their children, they need to be willing to take care of the pet once the children lose interest.

Does the animal fit your lifestyle? If a person travels a lot or works most of the day, will they have the time to take care of the animal properly? Also a family with young children or other pets that may not interact well with a new pet should consider waiting until another time.

Can you have a pet where you live? Many rental places do not allow pets or restrict what type of pet you can have. The Animal Rescue League of Boston will not adopt out a pet unless they have proof that a landlord allows animals or that the person owns their home.

Is anyone in your household allergic to pets? Or is anyone in the house fearful of that type of pet? These issues need to be resolved prior to adopting a pet. It is unfair to an animal to subject him to the stress of entering a new home and then returning him as though he were a shirt that didn't fit.

Do you have the time to properly care for the pet? Sometimes asking yourself these questions will help you decide which type to get because some animals take more time to care for than others.

Can you afford the cost of owning a pet? Food, bowls, collars, cages, obedience lessons, cat litter, toys, etc. can add up. And visits to the veterinarian as well as proper vaccinations have to be considered as well.

Do you have the appropriate space for the type of pet you are considering? If you have an eye on that Old English sheep dog but you live in a studio apartment, then maybe you need to consider a poodle or a cat or something smaller and wait until you are living in a larger space to adopt a larger animal.

Are you prepared to deal with problems that may arise from pet ownership? Just like kids, animals can cause problems at times, no matter how lovable they are. If you can handle chewed or scratched furniture, behavior problems and the occasional accident on your good carpet, then you are ready for a pet.

Are you prepared to make a commitment to that pet for its entire lifetime? Commitment is actually the very first thing people have to consider before adopting an animal; they are inviting another living thing in to their lives for what could be 10 to 15 years or more.

Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

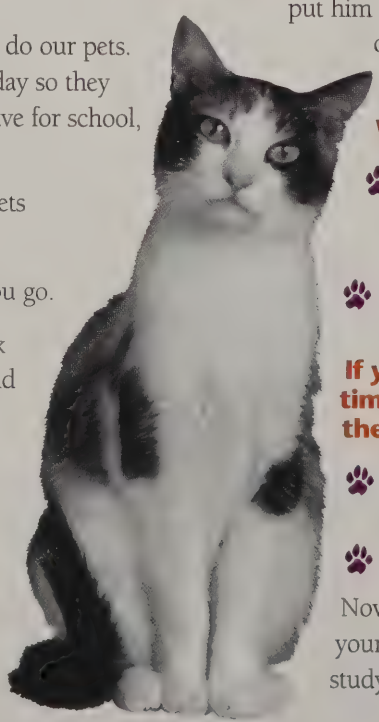
Keeping Your Pet Happy While You're Away at School

It's Fall again and you may have noticed that things around you are changing. The leaves are turning color, the air is turning crisp, the days are getting shorter—and yes, you've returned to school.

While you are away from home learning your ABCs, do you ever wonder what your pets are doing? Now that your schedule has changed, your pets' schedules change, too. They remember that in the summertime you would spend the day playing with them, but now you can't. They may be lonely at first. Until they figure out that you always come home again, they may think that you've forgotten them while you're at school.

We don't like to feel this way, and neither do our pets. What can we do for our pets during the day so they can be happy? For starters, before you leave for school, there are a few things you must do:

- Leave plenty of fresh water for your pets to drink throughout the day.
- Make sure to feed your pets before you go.
- If you have a dog, take him for a walk around the block for some exercise and to relieve himself so he won't have an accident in the house.
- If you have small pets (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) make sure all cages are secure (to prevent any escapes), but leave plenty of room for them to breathe.



While you are gone you may want to:

- Leave the radio or TV on low volume. Noises can be comforting and can block outside noises which may be annoying to your pets.
- Leave some favorite toys out for your pets so that they don't get bored (choose pet-safe toys, of course).

When you leave:

- A pat on the head and a quick hug good-bye is fine.
- Don't let your dog follow you to school or to the school bus stop (especially if he does not have a leash). This may put him in danger of becoming lost, getting hit by a car, or getting in trouble with the local animal control officer.

When you arrive home from school:

- Make sure to give your pets plenty of attention. Remember, they've missed you all day and are probably very glad to see you again.
- If you have a dog, going to dog obedience school could be fun and educational, too.

If your pets are having an unusually hard time adjusting to being alone throughout the day:

- Ask your parents about hiring a professional pet sitter to check on your pets during the day.
- Ask about doggie day care.

Now that you have some pointers on how to make your pets happy while you're away at school, go study hard and have a great school year!!

ends

Dear Kory,

I recently got a driver's license and I am petrified of running an animal over because they dart out into the street sometimes. What should I do if this happens or if I see an injured animal on the road? I'm also afraid a wild animal may bite me and give me rabies, but I can't just let it lie there in pain either. Please help!

Sincerely,
Ken Rispoli, Marlboro, MA

Dear Ken,

It is every driver's fear that they will one day hit an animal with their vehicle. I think we all should be aware of some precautions to take.

Although it is true no one wishes to injure an animal in the road, we must be sure not to jeopardize our safety or that of others in attempting to avoid our "animal friends." Do not stop abruptly or in the way of moving traffic.

Should you hit an animal or happen upon one, you can contact one of our shelters. The Animal Rescue League operates animal ambulance services in many areas. You can also contact local animal control or police departments.

Do not attempt to move or touch any animal that is in pain. They are likely to bite or scratch; wild or stray animals may have rabies. Wait until trained personnel arrive with proper equipment. They can decide whether to transport the animal for treatment or euthanasia based on its condition, species and extent of injuries.

I realize this information doesn't reduce your fears of hitting an animal, but hopefully it will alleviate some of the anxiety of not knowing what you can do.

Special Note: It is with a sad heart that as this goes to print I must inform our members and friends that Kory had to be humanely euthanized on July 16 (two days after his 11th birthday) due to a sudden onset of lung cancer. He was able to write this prior to this event as he received this letter the end of May. In future editions of this magazine, you will be introduced to a new advisor in this section. Kory truly loved anything and everything he was able to do for the League and he will be sadly missed, but by no one more than my family and myself. I thank all for allowing him to touch your lives.

Alan Cunningham
Sr. Humane Education & Training Instructor

Hey Kids!

Do you have a question about animals? Write in and if your question gets published in *Our Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free Animal Rescue League t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions
The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

friend of the quarter

Daniel Bolton of Wakefield provided great comfort and warmth to his animal friends through a towel and blanket drive.

Our friend of the quarter is Daniel Bolton of Wakefield, who ran a towel and blanket drive at his school. Daniel came up with the idea after reading a local newspaper article about animals in need at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

After receiving permission from his principal, Daniel had notices sent home asking for donations. He then decorated a large box for collection, placed it in the school hall and checked it each day. At the end of his very successful drive, Daniel personally brought the collection of old and new towels and blankets to the League's Salem branch.

Thanks to all those who contributed. And a special thank-you from the animals to Daniel.

If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt! Send entries to:

Friend of the Quarter
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117
Participants must be twelve years of age or younger.

Pets in the

1.

"'Joe' seemed to own the place from the day we brought him home," says Karen Guzi of Brighton. "He is friendly, playful, and growing by leaps and bounds!"

2.

"What a guy!!!" declare Catherine and Peter Magliarditi of Waltham about their new puppy, "Duke." "He is very social with other animals and people, especially children, which we are pleased about."

3.

"Chessie," (left) adopted from the Dedham shelter, and "Teddy," adopted from the Boston shelter, "became inseparable within three days," writes Mary Calhoun of Watertown. "They are very healthy, energetic, and affectionate."

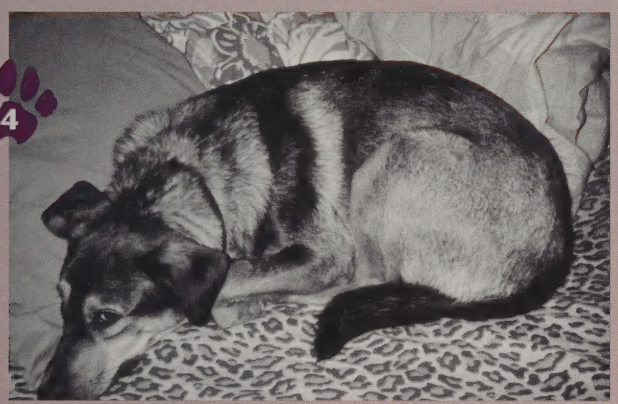
4.

"'Randy' gets to go on walks around the wildlife reservation," reports Tad Gardner of Concord. What a life! Donna Gardner adds, "'Randy' is a big, important part of our life and we love him."

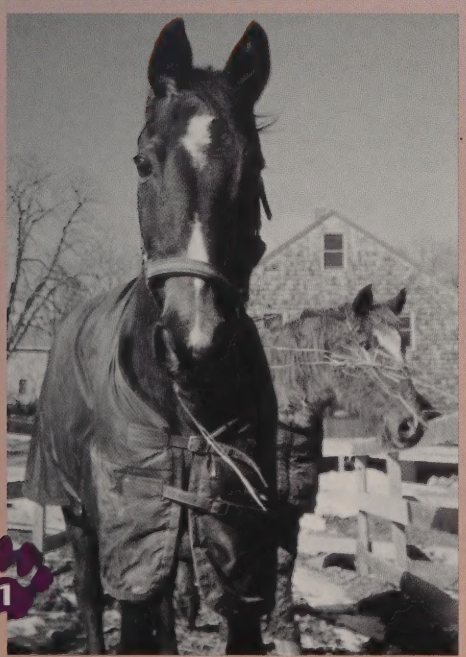
5.

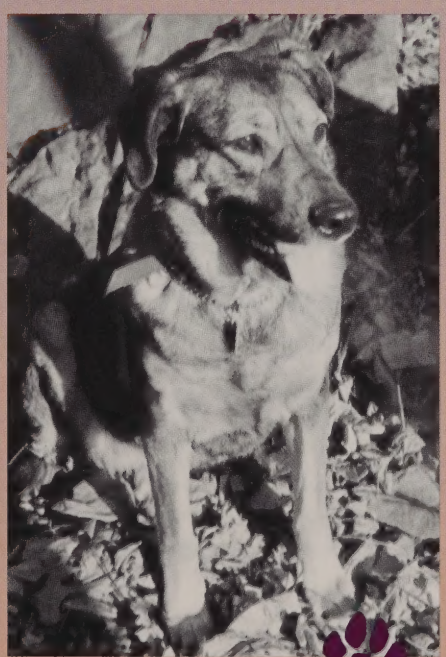
Pauline and Scott Mazmanian adopted "Cuddles" in 1989 from the League's Salem shelter. They write, "She is the joy of our life. Her favorite activity is sleeping and cuddling with us and her friends. Keep up the good work!"

Picture



Gone But Not Forgotten





1. *"Pepi" and "Rusty"*

"Pepi" (front), a 33-year-old thoroughbred, and "Rusty," a 37-year-old Morgan, shared a special bond. The horses died just ten days apart and will be missed. They "delighted our hearts and gave us so much happiness," says Patricia Pickett of Arlington.

2. *"Jasper"*

"Jasper" was adopted from the League in February 1991 at the age of six. Her recent death is a great loss to Daniel Ballin and Mia MacCollin. "She was a wonderful dog and we miss her very much."

3. *"Mums"*

"Mums" is fondly remembered by her loving owner Al Johnson of Waltham one year after her death. "Mums" provided him with "19 years of joy and companionship."

Pet Loss Group

The loss of a beloved pet can be a difficult experience. The League is now offering support services to the public. If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call Marcia Lowry Maloney, LMHC at 617-426-9170 ext. 430.

Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has developed the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call (617) 426-9170.

Towels and Blankets
Used to line cages for comfort and warmth. (Even in the warmer weather, these items are essential.)

Business Owners/Managers to Display Donation Boxes
If you would like to put a dog house donation box in your place of business, please call 617-426-9170, ext. 109. We will arrange for you to pick up the box at the nearest of our four shelters. You will then be responsible for emptying the box periodically and sending in the donations.

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)
Studies show that an animal with a toy in its cage is more likely to be selected for adoption. Toys also help to reduce the stress level of the animal while it is in the shelter.

Petoberfest '97 Auction Items
We are in need of items and or services for our professional auction. Are you or do you know a business owner who can donate a product or service for auction? Please call 617-426-9170, ext. 119.

Sit Up & Beg Thanks

Thank you for the second year in a row to Dennis and Kiki Marcos for organizing "Rock for Rover." The event was held at Sophie's Back Room in Hyannis, MA, and featured entertainment by the "Underground Cats." The event raised $1,000 for the League's Brewster shelter.

We are grateful to the following friends for their generous contributions:

Funds to purchase bulk quantities of Pet Toys:
Patricia Pickett, Arlington
S.J. Telfer, Arlington
Beth Sager and Pet Pride Day contributors, Boston

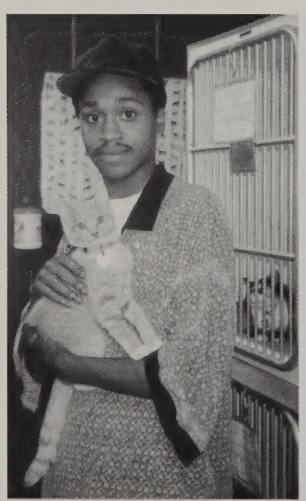
Incubator
Memorial Hospital in Worcester, MA. The machine will benefit many of the smaller, younger animal friends staying in our shelter and clinic.

Funds to purchase Law Enforcement Camcorder:
Henry T. Wiggin, Brookline

Donation Box Host
Hair Crew, Waltham

Advertising Space in event program
Tom and Peggy Treacy, S. Orleans

Thanks to the many thoughtful animal lovers who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets and towels. Your kindness provides comfort and warmth.



Bobby Walker (intern) gives extra attention to a cat waiting for a new home in the adoption center.

Volunteer Corner

Last September the volunteer department, in conjunction with Bay Cove Academy, began an internship program. Bobby Walker was the first student to participate in this program. Bobby has dedicated his time to helping the animals and staff in the shelter, adoption center, and in both the education and volunteer departments. He has been an asset to us, and we are excited to have him join us for a second year!

If you would like to become a volunteer or would like information on the volunteer program, please call Rena Bly at (617) 426-9170 ext. 126.

Show your support and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail.

T-Shirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$10.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$7.00 ea.

Sweatshirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$15.00 ea.

Sweatpants
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.

Blue Ribbon Pin
$5.00 ea.

Tote Bag
$12.00 ea.

Ceramic Coffee Mug
$3.00 ea.

Please send me:

Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total *(Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling for orders $10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)*			

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $ ____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston**
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Tribute Tree

In memory of a beloved pet now deceased, or as a tribute to your current companion(s), you are invited to purchase an ornament for the Animal Rescue League of Boston Tribute Tree. The cost is $5 per ornament.

Each ornament will be simply decorated; please indicate if you would like Christmas, Hanukkah or Winter. Your honored pet's name will be written on the back of the ornament (as well as the year of death, if the pet is deceased) and will also be listed in the spring issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends.* Ornaments will be mailed to you. In addition, a handmade paper ornament will be created by one of our special needs volunteers and hung on the Tribute Tree at the Boston headquarters during the holiday season.

The money raised will go toward helping other animals less fortunate than your special furry friend. To order an ornament, please send $5 along with your name, address and phone number, pet's name, and year of death (if deceased), to Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117. For more information please call 617-426-9170 x-109.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Pet's Name:

Year of Death if deceased:

Decoration (check one):

☐ Christmas ☐ Hanukkah ☐ Winter

Moving?

If you're moving...or heading south for the winter…please notify us promptly of your permanent, or temporary, address change.

Our computer system can now store more than one address, with different effective dates, for each member or subscriber to *Our Fourfooted Friends*. For example, if you live in Florida for eight months of the year, but spend June through September on Cape Cod, we can enter the effective dates for each location, to ensure automatic prompt delivery and eliminate the costs of forwarding your magazine.

(Note: Please check to be sure your old address label is affixed to this form.)

New Address 1 *(please print)*

Name

Street

City

State Zip

Phone

Dates in Effect:

(month/day) to (month /day)

New Address 2 *(please print)*

Name

Street

City

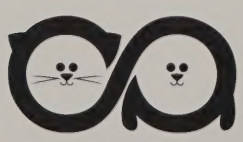
State Zip

Phone

Dates in Effect:

(month/day) to (month /day)

Mail to: Membership Dept., Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.



Our fourfooted friends (US ISSN 0030 6851)

Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested